

Tribal Transportation Planning Organization (TTPO)
Minutes
WSDOT Urban Corridors Office – Seattle, WA
July 16, 2008

I. Welcome, Introductions:

Vice President Jim Longley (Nisqually) opened the meeting with welcoming comments. He suggested that we consider implementing an RSVP system to improve meeting planning. Keri Shepherd (Lummi) and Annette Nesse (Jamestown) will share responsibility to call all Tribes to get RSVP information from them. A master list of all Tribes will be required.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

January 23, 2008 Meeting Minutes - motion to approve presented by Michael Cardwell (Tulalip Tribes) and seconded by Jim Longley, motion carries.

April 2, 2008 meeting minutes - motion to approve presented by Michael Cardwell and seconded by Jim Longley, motion carries.

II. Old Business

July 1, 2008 SWAT Meeting recap

Kirk gave a history of evolution of the TTPO SWAT Team. The main topic of that meeting was the TTPO work plan (see hand-out). The draft work developed during this meeting was created per WSDOT format per a request from Secretary Hammond.

III. TTPO Work Plan

Goals & Purpose Statement

Before the work plan can be submitted for WSDOT review it needs approval from TTPO regarding format and content. Julie Rodwell (WSDOT) recommended that, per the format developed by her office, more “deliverables” be added.

The draft plan was reviewed for content and edits from the group were noted. Jim will ensure that the membership language is consistent with the by-laws regarding officers representing different Tribes. He also offered to “wordsmith” the document at a later date and send out to the TTPO for email approval within time for presentation at the October State/Tribal Meeting. The work plan can then be shared with WSDOT Secretary Hammond and any potential funders.

Julie suggested combining the work plan, statement of purpose and overview and introduction into one document for presentation to Secretary Hammond. She volunteered to help Jim combine these documents into one and reference Rick’s historical summary from 1999.

After the work pan discussion, Kirk presented a draft TTPO logo that he took the lead on developing and asked the group for comments. With the suggested edits incorporated the logo was adopted.

IV. TTPO Executive Director Position

Overview and Background

Casey Stevens (Stillaguamish) presented his analysis of the requirements for the proposed Executive Director position as agreed at the April 2, 2008 TTPO meeting. His research is based on five alternatives (see hand-out).

Funding

The group was asked to speak to Tribal decision makers regarding their ability or desire to help fund the TTPO for the long term (i.e., hard dollars, gas tax dollars, etc.). Rick Galloway cautioned the group to remember that some Tribes don't even have money to participate in the TTPO; how could they commit to helping fund the operations? It was suggested that the TTPO develop a proposal for consideration by Tribes that receive gas tax revenues to fund a staffing feasibility study. In addition, we need to consider who can accept and spend money and who can coordinate and administer a feasibility study. To minimize costs, it may be worth considering an organization that can "house" the office to reduce overhead costs.

V. Working Lunch

Tom Carlson of Jones and Jones Landscape Architects presented information on the Montana State Highway 93. This safety improvements project was delayed for 18 years due to the inability of Tribes and MDOT to agree on the project route. Once finally funded and now completed the project allowed route improvements that reduced the road prism, added wildlife crossings, incorporated long, sweeping curves, added interpretive stations, and native vegetation.

VI. Executive Tribal Liaison Position

Kirk reviewed a draft letter to Secretary Hammond regarding input about the Tribal Liaison position and list of important skills, knowledge and abilities. Kirk will edit and mail the letter to Steve Reinmuth, WSDOT, by Friday.

VII. Tribal State Transportation Conference

Planning is progressing, especially the TTPO's part in developing the planning track. We are beginning to secure speaker commitments. A draft agenda is available.

VIII. Announcements

Julie announced that the Tribal Transportation Guide Book is available for comments via the website.

IX. The Good of the Order

Michael announced that the American Planning Association (APA) Conference (October 13-15) at the Davenport Hotel will be a joint conference with the Idaho Planning Association and will include a Tribal discussion panel.

The next TTPO meeting will be in October in Leavenworth during the Tribal/State Transportation Conference.

To Do List:

1. Colleen asked that the federal gas tax rebate issue be presented at the State/Tribal Conference.
2. Julie volunteered to follow up regarding TTPO invite to Native American Advisory Board.
3. Rick Galloway was asked to prepare a summary statement of the history of the TTPO. This statement to include a question regarding why the state is still receiving beneficial publicity for working with Tribes as proposed in 1999 when in reality the WSDOT's support for the TTPO has diminished.